

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated February 1, 2007. Claims 20-27 are pending in this application. Claims 20, 23, 26, and 27 are amended. No new matter is added.

Claims 20-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,989,288 to Pintauro. However, the claims recite features that are neither taught or suggested by Pintauro. For example, independent claims 20, 23, 26, and 27 all recite a valve support connecting the valve body to the resilient seal, which is not taught or suggested by Pintauro.

Applicant notes that the amendments to the claims are similar to the amendments made in related U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/454,729. The examiner previously allowed the '729 application.

In view of the foregoing comments, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 20, 23, 26, and 27 should be withdrawn. Claims 24 and 25 are allowable based on their dependence on claim 20 as well as on their own merit.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily.

Applicant : Gholam-Reza Zadno-Azizi, et al.
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Amendment

In view of the above amendments and remarks, all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Fred C. Hernandez
Reg. No. 41,832

PTO Customer No: 20985
Fish & Richardson P.C.
12390 El Camino Real
San Diego, California 92130
Telephone: (858) 678-5625
Facsimile: (202) 626-7796
Email: f hernandez@fr.com

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